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HOPE COLLEGE BULLETIN

Volume 58

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Number 1

ALUMNI NEWS LETTER



1920

HOPE COLLEGE
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

A Message to Alumni

Fellow Alumni:

This bulletin is a reminder to you in particular. You have received letters from time to time reminding you of your relations to your alma mater and to these letters you have responded most helpfully. This brief letter is to remind you of the passing of another year and a looking forward to commencement days, which always means the greetings of old friends. No doubt you have glanced through the annual bulletin and have seen that the work done is much the same as in years past with slight variations. The spirit of Hope has not changed, except that it becomes more intense with the increase of its graduates. We extend to you a most cordial invitation to join us in the commencement festivities. The spirit of Hope welcomes you, the greeting of friends, old and new, urges you, and the college reunions with former classmates invite you to attend.

Each year Hope College is sending out a larger graduating class. This year's class, the largest in the history of the college, numbers fifty members. These graduates are annually adding their forces, both in numbers and in strength, to the large list of graduates already operating in the various useful walks of life. This increase adds new interest to the work and a larger interest in the institution which trained them for their work. The increase in attendance also increases the zeal and enthusiasm. In all its increase in graduates, in influence these graduates wield, in larger usefulness, the dominant spirit is Christian. Never was the number so large and enthusiastic who are volunteering for Christian service in foreign lands and the Christian spirit is strong on the campus, almost every young man without exception is a member of the Y. M. C. A. The Y. W. C. A. enrolls about 120 young ladies. You can add interest and new zeal to this religious spirit at Hope by your attendance and presence at the commencement. Others are coming, will you be there?

Yours very truly,

THE COMMITTEE.

June Festivities

ONE of the best years in the history of the college is drawing to a close and with the new life nature is being clothed with comes into being also the new life another successful year brings. Preparations are well under way for commencement exercises and reading the announcements which follow should create in you a strong determination to be there, and to take part in making these exercises worth while. Wishing you could be there is good, we need your best wishes; expecting to be there is better, your expectations lead us to further hopes; promising to be present without fail is best, then we know that you have the best interests of your alma mater foremost in your heart. Join us in making this happy commencement time one of the happiest and most joyful occasions.

June 13—Baccalaureate sermon.

June 14—Closing exercises of preparatory school in Carnegie gymnasium.

June 15—Meeting of the Council, 10 a. m.

June 16—Meeting of Alumni Association, 2 p. m.

June 16—Commencement exercises in Carnegie gymnasium, 7:30 p. m.

To The Alumni of Hope College

It gives me pleasure to bring to your attention matters of interest which were embodied in the President's Annual Report to the Council of Hope College. Perhaps in no better way can your college retain its place as a living part of your vital interests than by your constant touch with its administration and operation.

"The academic year, 1919-1920, has been much like its immediate predecessors, in that variety has not been the spice, but the whole of life. On the 18th of September, 1919, Rev. Henry E. Dosker, D. D., '76, of Louisville, Ky., delivered the address at the opening exercises and ushered in a year

which it is hoped will prove worthy of those that have gone before and less only than those that are to follow. Moral and social product cannot be measured in quantitative terms and, albeit in the usual customary phrase that the year's work is inventoried for you who are sponsors for the institution, your operative force feels that no slight contribution has been made to the creative powers of your denomination and to its future through the combined efforts of the executive committee of Council, the members of the faculty and the administrative employees. I want at this point to take occasion to express my personal gratitude for the helpful guidance and advice of your executive committee in the perplexing situations of the year. I have often in the past felt that the time and energy given by men of the highest trained ability to institutions of this and like type goes unappreciated by those who reap the benefit and I am more than ever convinced that some decided recognition should be accorded these men by your body. Your praise for them should know no stint and the churches of your denomination should know that the gratuitous service of your executive committee, composed this year of Attorney Arend Vischer, chairman; Hon. Gerrit J. Diekema, secretary of Council; Rev. G. De Jonge, secretary of the committee, and Rev. Henry J. Veldman, has a real value which exceeds several thousands of dollars annually. The faculty has accorded its usual ambitious and whole-hearted co-operation in the educational work. The classes to be graduated in June number approximately fifty-two for the College and fifteen for the Preparatory School. It has been necessary because of the financial situation to curtail the offerings of the College and so to refuse admittance to short-course and special students. This will have to be our policy for the next year as well.

By way of development, the Denominational College must now assume an attitude somewhat different to that she has held in the past. Instead of standing only for cultural courses as the demand required when these schools held the entire field of education, the privately-endowed college must link this purely cultural work (of which she still stands the purest exponent and must continue so) with personal vital tacts between teacher and student, with an active Chris-

tianity, and with the thought of a definite life purpose—call it vocational training if you will based on Christianity and the Liberal Arts. ****

In functioning in this way several problems arise, and I would call your attention at this meeting particularly to the problem of the girl student. The teaching profession is not appealing to her as it once did and other positions are in sore need of trained minds. To these she is looking and asking for a man's work in the world. Your faculty is studying the situation and asks your co-operation and suggestions.

The aid of the ministry in recruiting for candidates for all positions of leadership is asked. It means the continuation of your own professions and the strengthening of the laity upon whom you depend for your assistance in the work you are carrying on.

More active measures that will foster a scholarly attitude seem desirable. It is therefore proposed that you consider granting the Bachelor's Degree with the addition of the honors, "cum laude," "magna cum laude," and "Summa cum laude." A definite plan will be laid before you at the regular meeting in June. It is also felt that your bachelor's degree should be safeguarded in other ways in these days when education is so cheap and is held in such regard that it is proposed in some quarters to subsidize with cash bonuses additions to the rolls of the year books. Here, too, plans are being matured which will be submitted to you in June for consideration.

From some points of view the most important work of the year has been financial. You will be pleased to know that marked success has attended the work of your Western Secretary in Education and that the efforts of all those who are engaged in this department make it possible to show an addition in the balance sheet of your Permanent Funds of more than forty-five thousand dollars. The income upon this fund will, of course, not be available for at least a year, but much encouragement comes from the hearty responses of the churches and friends of the College. I regret to state that the Current Funds Balance Sheet on the other hand shows a deficit for the year of \$4,227.41, notwithstanding a

most careful economy of funds and labor. The report is submitted to you in a new form, which it is hoped will enable you to submit suggestions for the future which will work for increased efficiency and economy. It is felt that benevolent and fiduciary management can never be too careful and that governing boards should make a most exhaustive study of costs and production in their relationship. Salaries must be definitely and largely increased. Income must be increased and it is proposed that the fees of both the College and the Preparatory School be raised in a proportion to meet the increased costs of operation. ****

At the request of the Board of Education of the Reformed Church in America a most exhaustive survey of the needs of the College for the next five years has been made and this is before you in brief form. The Interchurch World Movement Survey has also been completed, and your Executive Committee has cast in its lot with both these movements. ****

Another source of revenue which has hitherto remained untouched was appealed to during the year and your Alumni Association are responding most happily to the appeal. While it has been impossible to complete the work to date, the one who offered a large capital sum for the encouragement of the association leaves the time limit open for further work. A full report will be given you in June. ****

Altogether the year has been fruitful. Doubtless a much larger result could have been obtained were conditions different, but we are devoutly thankful to God for what has been accomplished and grateful to all the friends of the College and to the Alumni Association for their help and counsel. I trust that you will find sufficient satisfaction in the stewardship of those who have had the work to do.

Changes in Calendar and Curriculum

THE new calendar as announced in the February bulletin went into effect at the beginning of the year and has worked out beyond expectations with very little inconvenience. The calendar for 1920-1921, a more complete

announcement of which will appear in the August bulletin, is as follows:

FIRST SEMESTER

September 14—Examinations for admission, beginning 9 a. m.

September 15—First Semester begins at 9 a. m.

November 25—Thanksgiving Recess.

December 17—Christmas Recess begins at 12 o'clock noon.

January 3—Christmas Recess ends 12 o'clock p. m.

January 28—First Semester examination.

SECOND SEMESTER

January 31—Second Semester begins at 8 a. m.

June 15—Commencement.

The Faculty wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the classes, friends and especially to the Council of Hope, for the increase made in the salaries for the coming year. This increase, which comes without the demands on the part of the Faculty, shows that our friends are sincere in their efforts for the best interests of Hope College.

The annual fees have been increased to forty dollars in the College and to thirty dollars in the Preparatory departments to meet partially the increased cost of operating expenses.

Concerning Changes of Address

Inasmuch as it is difficult for the Catalog Committee to obtain the exact addresses of almost 700 alumni, the Committee will esteem it a favor if each alumnus or alumna will send promptly to the College Librarian, any change of address which may occur in his or her own case. The Committee will also welcome such notice of change in address on the part of other alumni of your acquaintance as you think we might not get with sufficient promptness or accuracy.